Import of Rice from China

967. SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the report that in Karnataka, Chinese rice is being sold at Rs. 6 per Kg. in Districts of Mysore and Mandya;

(b) if so, the total quantity of rice imported from China and at what price; and

(c) whether Government propose to consider imposing antidumping duty on Chinese rice?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) As per DGCI&S, Calcutta data, available for the year 1999-2000, 2000-01 and the month of April, 2001, no rice has been imported from China.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Paper mills referred to BIFR

†968. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of paper mills registered in India based on non-wood based raw material;

(b) the number of mills referred to BIFR out of them togetherwith the number of mills closed down and the condition of the remaining mills; and

(c) the root cause of present misery of these mills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN): (a) There are about 483 paper mills based on non-wood raw material in the country.

(b) Number of sick/closed paper mills based on raw material is not centrally maintained. However, as on 31st March, 2001, 201 sick paper "mills were registered with the Board for Industrial and

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) under the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. Out of these, 148 cases were disposed of and the remaining 53 cases were pending with the BIFR at various stages of enquiry. Cases of 66 companies out of 148 were recomended by the BIFR for winding up to the concerned High Court under section 20(1) of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provision) Act, 1985. Rehabilitation schemes were sanctioned/approved in the cases of 20 mills, cases of 43 mills were dismissed as non maintainable, cases of 3 mills turned positive during enquiry and 16 mills were declared no longer sick.

(c) Sickness/closer of mills can generally be attributed to small and uneconomic size of the mill, inadequate availability and high cost of raw material, technological obsolescence, costly and inadequate availability of grid power, high capital cost, managerial problems etc.

Decline in Export of Products

969. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN:

SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that various items which arc beign exported from India show a declining trend in the quantity of exports;

(b) if so, the details of such exported items which show a declining trend in the export price; and

(c) the details of the price rates of such items for the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) India's exports during 2000-01 are valued at US $ 441.03.77 Million as compared to the US $ 36805.35 Million during the year 1999-2000, thereby, achieving export growth rate of 19.83% which was higher than the target of 18% set for the year 2000-01.

As per provisional data of Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistic (DGCI&S), Calcutta, out of the 93 principal commodities of exports only in respect of 6 items *viz.* Rice (Other than basmati), Tobacco, manufactured and unmanufactured, Cashew,